

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-09

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /126 W
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R 091830 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1261

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 107

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, NS

SUBJECT: STRIKE SITUATION

SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE TO RELEASE AT LEAST SOME
SEDITION DETAINEES TO START NEGOTIATIONS.

1. SEDNEY HAS REPEATED OFFER TO UNIONS TO TALK AND HAS EXPLAINED THAT SINCE ARRESTEES NOW UNDER CONTROL OF JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES, GOVERNMENT MAY NOT RELEASE THEM. OTHER GROUPS HAVE CALLED ON GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE STRIKERS AND BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS, SUCH AS MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, GROUPS OF NON- STRIKING WORKERS, PROMINENT CITIZENS. ACCORDING TO SOME AUTHORITIES, GOVERNMENT HAS LEGAL AUTHORITY TO RELEASE ACCUSED PERSONS, EVEN AFTER JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEGUN, IF IT DEEMS THAT HIGHER NATIONAL INTEREST WOULD BE SERVED. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE GOVERNMENT MAY RELEASE AT LEAST THOSE ARRESTEES OF SUFFICIENT INTEREST TO UNIONS TO GET UNIONS TO NEGOTIATING TABLE AND UNBLOCK SITUATION. PUBLIC AND BUSINESS OPINION HAS BEEN BUILDING UP AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS FAILURE TO FIND A WAY OUT OF SITUATION WHICH HAS PRODUCED GROWING PUBLIC UNEASE DUE TO SCHOOL CLOSING, AND CONTINUING AIR OF UNCERTAINTY AND NERVOUSNESS.

2. ACCORDING TO LOCAL NEWS REPORT, NETHERLANDS SECTION OF UNITED HINDUSTANI PARTY (VHP) WILL CALL AT AMERICAN EMBASSY IN THE HAGUE TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN SURINAM AND " ENQUIRE IF THE
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AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS GIVING SERIOUS ATTENTION TO SITUATION
IN SURINAM, NOW THAT NETHERLANDS DOES NOT WISH TO FULFILL
HER CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATIONS".

3. IT STILL NOT CLEAR WHO WILL FORM THE SURINAM SECTION OF THE
REALM COMMISSION AT MEETING IN CURACAO RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH
12. FEW FIRST RANK POLITICAL LEADERS ARE LIKELY TO GO, UNLESS
THERE IS LAST MINUTE BREAK IN SITUATION HERE. WE UNDERSTAND
DEVELOPMENT MINISTER FRANK ESSED INTENDS TO HEAD THE SECTION.
JOHNSTON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARAMA00107
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PARAMARIBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730323/aaaahfzy.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18-Sep-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971110
Subject: STRIKE SITUATION
TAGS: PINS, NS
To: ARA
SECSTATE WASHDC
THE HAGUE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005